



**For Immediate Release:
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New Toll Free Number for State Employees Regarding Workplace Issues

Dover – In order to better serve employees on a statewide basis, the Office of Management and Budget, Human Resource Management has established a toll free number for Merit employees to call with questions or concerns regarding workplace issues. The toll free number is 1-866-462-8411. Employees who are calling from Kent County can call 672-5195.

This new service is completely confidential and the toll free line includes a confidential mailbox for callers to leave messages. Every effort will be made to quickly return these calls.

Staff members from Employee Relations will answer the toll free line. If staff are out of the office the above numbers default to a receptionist, and the employees may elect to call back at another time or leave a confidential message.

The establishment of this number was a direct result of House Joint Resolution 5, which recognizes that State employees with questions or issues should have access to an impartial resource. While the Employee Relations division has been in service for a number of years, the addition of a toll free number is expected to provide easier and more confidential access to employees.

Again, this service is completely confidential. The only exception would be in situations where there is a threat of direct harm to anyone, including the caller.

Employees covered by the State's group health insurance program should continue to utilize the Employee Assistance Program by calling 1-800-343-2186 for confidential help with issues of a personal nature.